

Serial No. 10/802,721

Attorney Docket No. 01-581

REMARKS

The applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 18 March 2004.

Claims 2-5 are pending. Claim 1 has been canceled. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but was determined to be allowable if written in independent form. Claim 4 has been written in independent form, including all the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claim 4 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Imai *et al.* Claim 1 has been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claim 3, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 3 now depends on claim 4, which was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 3 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakai *et al.* Claim 1 has been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 2, 3, and 5 the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

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Claims 2, 3 and 5 now depend on claim 4, which was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 2, 3 and 5 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

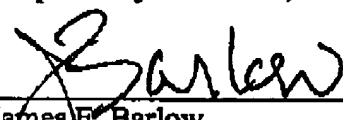
Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imai *et al.* in view of Sakai *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The dependency of claims 2 and 5 has been changed. Now, claims 2 and 5 depend on claim 4, which was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 2 and 5 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


James E. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz Law Group, PLC
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101
Reston, VA 20191
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400